

# ONLINE

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**WHO'S AHEAD IN THE SPACE RACE? WHO'S LAST?**

**CASTLES IN THE AIR: THE UTTER POETRY OF OFF-EARTH ARCHITECTURE**

**SPACE ENTREPRENEURS: A CAPITALIST'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY**

**SHOULD WE GO TO MARS? YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE**

**PLUS: EINSTEIN'S EDITOR SPEAKS OUT**

**SPECIAL SPACE ISSUE**

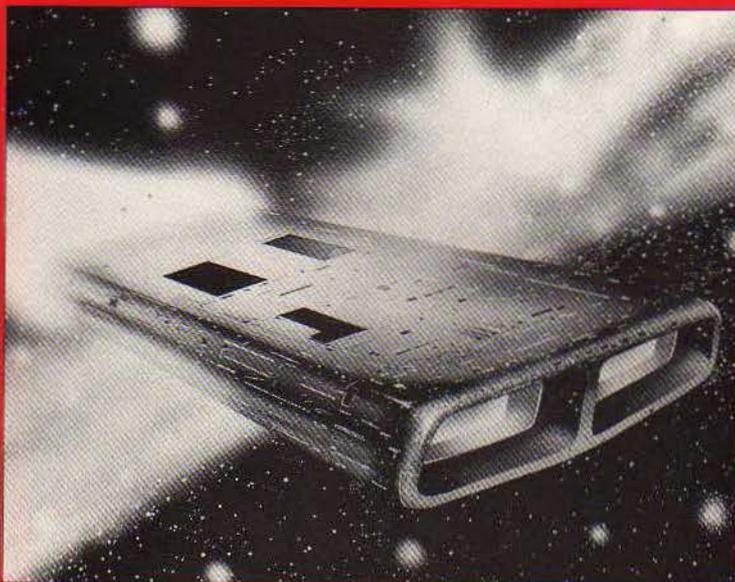
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hit the newsstands with the initial  
100,000 copies of  
UFO Universe sometime soon.

## ANTI MATTER

Not since *UFO Report* folded in the winter of 1981 have saucer buffs been able to buy a magazine at their corner drugstore devoted to UFOs. Now with two UFO magazines racing toward publication, the long drought is about to end. The underdogs in the race to national prominence appear to be two freelance journalists from Los Angeles, Vicki Cooper and Sherie Stark, coeditors and publishers of the shoe-string-budgeted *California UFO*, now called simply *UFO*. "*California* was dropped from the name last year," explains Cooper, "because we wanted to



## UFO UPDATE

appeal to a wider audience." The first issue, dated fall 1986, enjoyed a press run of 4,000 copies, distributed mainly in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Circulation is now up to 6,000, and Cooper says negotiations are in progress with a mall bookstore chain, which might allow the 48-page bi-monthly to increase national exposure. "We anticipate a quantum leap in circulation if that happens, but certainly we can't afford to do it on our own," she admits. "Not when we're living hand to mouth, issue by issue."

Indeed, the race for first in the national sweepstakes may have already been won by Timothy Green Beckley, enfant terrible of UFO publishing, whose previous print forays have sometimes been less than accurate (he once touted pictures of a badly burned dead pilot as those of an alien). Undaunted by such escapades, Beckley defends his checkered past. "I've caught some flak, sure," he says, "because I don't necessarily believe or disbelieve anything. I look at myself as a recording historian. You have to under-

stand that no one knows what's really going on with UFOs."

Now Beckley may be making history. Backed by a grub-stake from New York-based kung fu and ninja publishing magnate Al Weiss, who reportedly once saw a UFO himself, Beckley says he'll be ready soon to hit newsstands with the initial 100,000 copies of *UFO Universe*. The premier issue, to be distributed by Kable News, features a four-color cover (reproduced as a pullout centerfold) and articles like "John Lennon's Close Encounter" and "Can E.T.'s Cure Cancer and AIDS?"

"We've got some good people, too," Beckley boasts, "like Brad Steiger on abductions and John Keel on men in black." The cover price of the magazine, scheduled to appear bi-monthly, he says, will be either \$2.50 or \$2.95.

Beckley admits his own editorial budget is "embarrassingly small" but thinks his chances for survival are good, given the present public attitude toward UFOs. "If the first three issues make it," he vows, "we'll do others. After that, it's touch and go. But I'll tell you what—if it doesn't make it, no other distributor is going to touch the subject with a ten-foot pole. Not for some time to come."

Cooper and Stark, meanwhile, insist they're in it for the long run. "Any UFO magazine is going to open inroads into a greater awareness of our situation in space," says Cooper. "Right now we're really at a primitive stage when you think about it. I mean, what's a hundred thousand copies on a planet with five billion people who are just beginning to think about extraterrestrial life?"—DENNIS STACY